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AN EDITORIAL

Meg Greenfield, the brilliant liberal woman who directs the OP's editorial page, explained it once as a staple of our post-Vietnam thinking. Any Third World leader who is pro-American is probably not worth having as a friend anyway, whereas any leader who calls himself or herself progressive or "non-aligned" or Marxist can be assumed to enjoy the allegiance of his or her people. That, of course, is what Texans call a blivet — 10 pounds of horsefeathers in a one-pound bag. But it remains to this day an article of faith among editorial writers — and many reporters — in the liberal media. That covers about 95 percent of our profession.

It is not even a reflection of that palpably fraudulent moral equivalence syndrome which holds that while the USSR does terrible and evil things, the U.S. does equally terrible and evil things. It's even worse. This warped post-Vietnam thinking has led some liberal media gurus to conclude that the Soviet Union's record and agenda in the world are less threatening to world peace than America's (e.g., The Wall Street Journal's Jonathan Kwitny's "Endless Enemies"; T.D. Alman's "Unmanifest Destiny").

Many of our congressmen have been regurgitating these blivets for years. This has led to the betrayal of friends all over the world. And this death knell continues. The latest House vote refusing so much as doughnuts to the Nicaraguan resistance has brought shame to the leader of the Free World. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick called it "nauseatingly self-defeating." Now some congressmen tell us they would have voted for aid to the resistance had they known that while they were engaged in what passes for debate these days, the Soviets shipped more than \$14 million in military supplies to the self-avowed Marxist regime in Nicaragua.

A not insignificant number of congressmen said Daniel Ortega's sudden departure for Moscow to seek \$200 million in aid the minute Congress had betrayed our friends caught them by surprise. Had they known, they have told me, they would have voted assistance to the resistance. Is it possible for representatives of the people of our great country to be that naive? Possibly. More likely, however, is that their minds were manipulated by "The Network" of disinformation artists described in this paper in a five-part series (April 8-12). They certainly were not responding to their constituents who do not — repeat not — wish to see another Cuba in this hemisphere.

To paraphrase Charles Peguy, the French poet and philosopher, it may never be known how many acts of cowardice have been committed throughout history out of fear of not looking and sounding sufficiently progressive. The Washington Times vehemently denounces the betrayal of America's friends.

When people equate the motives and objectives of the United States with those of the Soviet Union and vice versa, which many media stars are increasingly prone to do; when people are no longer willing to distinguish between the eternal principles of the American revolution and a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship; when people are no longer willing to fight and die to preserve their freedoms; when congressmen refuse \$14 million to people who are willing to fight and die in the struggle against totalitarianism, then the totalitarian temptation itself cannot be far behind. That's what the American people said "no" to on Nov. 6, 1984. That mandate cannot be betrayed in the name of political expediency.

This newspaper recently offered a \$1 million reward for information leading to the arrest, trial and conviction of Josef Mengele, the Nazi war criminal now believed to be living in South America. Beginning today, The Washington Times will launch a worldwide fundraising drive to provide the Nicaraguan resistance with the \$14 million in aid — humanitarian aid — that the House turned down. There are now 15,000 anti-Communist Nicaraguan resistance fighters. The Abraham Lincoln brigade, which fought on the Republican side in the Spanish civil war, is still treated with awesome veneration. Anyone who fights against the Marxist tyranny in Nicaragua is dismissed by the liberals as a mercenary or a Somocista. The fact is that fewer than 2 percent of the resistance fighters are former members of Somoza's National Guard. They are not fighting for a restoration of Somoza's late, unlamented, corrupt dictatorship. But they are fighting for values that every American should cherish more than life itself.

Support for outmanned and outgunned freedom fighters must be done now so a clear message is sent worldwide that the American people will not turn their backs on those seeking freedom.

To do this, The Washington Times will form a non-profit, public corporation, assuming no legal prohibitions, to raise funds for Nicaragua's freedom fighters. To start this fund, The Washington Times will make a \$100,000 contribution. Freedom must be supported, just as the French support of the American revolution made this country possible.

— Arnaud de Borchgrave
Editor-in-Chief